

Baltimore Sustainability Program



Baltimore Sustainability Program

- Office of Sustainability

Purpose: Coordinate City, non-governmental organizations, and private efforts toward sustainability goals. Advise and support the Sustainability Commission's efforts. Lead programs of the Environmental Sub-Cabinet.

- Sustainability Commission

Purpose: Create and implement a City-wide Sustainability Plan. Develop partnerships with government, NGO's, businesses, and citizens to implement City-wide sustainability programs. Commission must report to City Council annually.

- Environmental Sub-Cabinet

Purpose: Integrate elements of sustainability into all facets of City operations. Develop and coordinate City policies and programs that will improve environmental performance of City operations within a sustainable framework.

Office of Sustainability

Main Functions:

- Work with the Sustainability Commission to develop and implement the Sustainability Plan
- Staff the Environmental Sub-Cabinet to incorporate sustainable practices into the operations of City Government
- Complete a Baltimore Green House Gas Inventory
- Identify and understand latest sustainability initiatives, programs and legislation
- Develop working relationships with other groups performing related work



Sustainability Commission

Comprised of 21 Members Representing:

- Community Organizations
- Environmental Groups & Interests
- Labor Unions
- Public Health
- Environmental Justice
- Private Industry
- Mayor's Office
- City Agencies

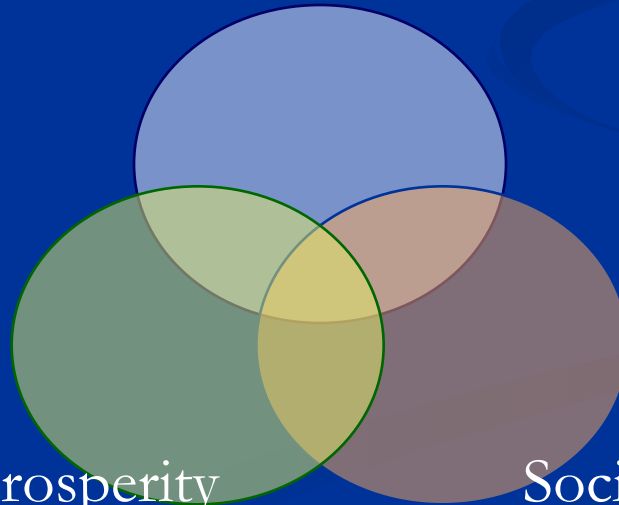
Environmental Sub-Cabinet

- Develop and coordinate City policies and programs that will improve environmental performance of City operations within a sustainable framework
- Coordinate with the Office of Sustainability in implementation of the Sustainability Plan developed by the Sustainability Commission
- Report to the Mayor's Cabinet on sustainability issues important to the City, initiatives, policies and programs

Working Definition of Sustainability

Meeting the environmental, social, and economic needs of Baltimore without compromising the ability of future generations to meet these needs.

Environmental Protection



Economic Prosperity

Social Equity

Guiding Principles of Sustainability Commission & Plan

- Inclusiveness – Adopt a broad definition of “environment” as issues are explored
- Engagement – Engage a wide range of the public, including those not normally connected to a traditional environmental agenda
- Translation – Communicate issues, ideas, and goals in ways that are meaningful to all citizens

Sustainability Plan - Purpose

- Engage the Baltimore community in a comprehensive discussion on sustainability
- Inventory existing programs, organizations, and resources
- Articulate and prioritize sustainability goals for the Baltimore community
- Serve as roadmap for future legislation, public/private partnerships, programs, educational campaigns, etc.

Sustainability Plan - Content

Plan will include:

- Baseline information on community sustainability
- Vision statements for what a Sustainable Baltimore would look like
- Clear goals to move us towards this vision
- Indicators and targets to measure progress towards these goals
- Priority initiatives to meet these goals

Working Groups

- Energy & Air
- Water
- Waste
- Green Infrastructure
- Built Environment
- Transportation

Examining Resources through Three Lenses of Sustainability

Resource	Environmental	Economic	Social	
			Equity	Public Health
Energy and Air	e.g. demand-side (energy efficiency), supply-side (renewable generation), air quality, climate change	e.g. creation of clean energy jobs	e.g. affordable utility bills	e.g. mercury levels, asthma
Water	e.g. water consumption, water quality, wastewater treatment, Bay health	e.g. economic development of waterfront, tourism industry	e.g. access to recreational waters, fishing	e.g. drinking water quality, swimmable waters
Waste	e.g. recycling, composting, salvage/reuse of materials	e.g. markets for recycled materials	e.g. distribution of facilities	e.g. reduce need for new landfills
Green Infrastructure	e.g. parks/open space, biodiversity, urban forestry, sustainable agriculture/food systems	e.g. tourism and recreation industries	e.g. access to open space	e.g. locally-grown food, cleaner air
Built Environment	e.g. green zoning and codes, brownfields, new and existing buildings (homes, commercial, industrial)	e.g. brownfield redevelopment	e.g. "greening" of affordable housing	e.g. lead poisoning, indoor air quality
Transportation	e.g. city fleet/private fleets, transit, bike and pedestrian infrastructure	e.g. employee access to jobs	e.g. affordable transportation access to communities	e.g. outdoor air quality, exercise

Timeline

- April – Sustainability Commissioners Sworn-in
- May 27th – Sustainability Plan Kick-off Meeting
- June-September– Public Working Group Meetings
- October 28th – Next Public Presentation Meeting
- Fall 2008 – Draft of Sustainability Plan
- Early 2009 – Plan will be sent to City Council for approval

Proposed Public Engagement Plan

- Attend Public Presentation Commission Meetings
- Attend Working Group Meetings
- Share ideas at Mayor's Nights Out
- Email us your ideas for the Plan at sustainability@baltimorecity.gov
- Complete survey (will be available on-line and at public events)

Working Groups

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How Can I Stay Involved?

- 1) Attend Public Meetings
- 2) Sign-up for Working Group Information
- 3) Sign-up for Email Updates on Future Meetings and Announcements:

To self-subscribe to the Sustainability Plan List, email us at:
office_of_sustainability-join@lists.baltimorecity.gov

- 4) Check out Information on the Web:

Cleaner Greener Baltimore:

www.cleanergreenerbaltimore.org

Planning Department:

<http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/planning/>

- 5) Share Your Ideas on the Sustainability Plan:

Email us at: sustainability@baltimorecity.gov